

IN THE CLAIMS:

The instant amendment amends claims 19, 29, 35, and 43 without prejudice of disclaimer.

After the entry of the instant amendment, these amended claims will be:

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19. (Twice Amended) A system for operating with a plurality of portable cards each having a card memory, and a store having a plurality of products, the system comprising:

- a plurality of cash register stations, each cash register station including
  - an electromagnetic detector for generating first signals corresponding to product pricing and for generating second signals identifying products selected for purchase;
  - a card interface for reading third signals corresponding to product pricing from the card memory of one of the portable cards;
  - a first processing unit that executes a first program in a first memory to correlate second signals with first signals,

wherein the system also includes a plurality of second processing units, each second processing unit executing a second program in a second memory, to determine a discount quantity by correlating second signals from the electromagnetic detector, in a respective one of the cash register stations, with the third signals read by the card interface, in the respective one of the cash register stations.

29. (Twice Amended) A system for operating with a plurality of portable cards each having a card memory for storing product discount information , and a store with a plurality of products, the system comprising:

a plurality of cash register stations, each cash register station including

an electromagnetic detector for generating first signals corresponding to product pricing and for generating second signals identifying products selected for purchase;

CR a card interface for reading from the card memory of one of the portable of cards;

a first processing unit that executes a first program in a first memory to correlate second signals with first signals,

a signal path between a peripheral device and the first processing unit,

a second processing unit, responsive to a signal on the signal path, that executes a second program in a second memory, to determine a discount quantity by correlating second signals with third signals from the card memory of one of the plurality of card,

wherein the first processing unit determines a total amount due by receiving a fourth signal from the second processing unit.

35. (Twice Amended) A method for a system including a plurality of portable cards each having a card memory, and a store having a plurality of products, and a plurality of cash register stations, the method comprising:

generating first signals corresponding to product pricing and generating second signals identifying products selected for purchase;

reading third signals corresponding to product pricing from the card memory of one of the portable cards;

C3 executing a first program in a first memory to correlate second signals with first signals, wherein the method also includes executing a second program in a second memory, to determine a discount quantity by correlating second signals generated in a respective one of the cash register stations, with the third signals read in the respective one of the cash register stations.

43. (Three Times Amended) A method for a system including a plurality of portable cards each having a card memory for storing product discount information, and a store with a plurality of products, the method comprising:

C4 generating first signals corresponding to product pricing;

generating second signals identifying products selected for purchase;

generating third signals by reading from the card memory of one of the portable of cards;

executing a first program in a first memory to correlate second signals with first signals,

sending a device signal on a signal path between a peripheral device and the first program,